

SOUTH CAROLINA NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, April 26, 2001
Room 209, Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina

Members present: Mr. Steve Byrne, Dr. Carolyn Hudson, Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, Senator W. Greg Ryberg, Representative Charles Sharpe, Mr. Ben Rusche, and Dr. James Navratil.

Staff: Patricia Tangney

The first meeting of the SC Nuclear Advisory Council was held on Thursday, April 26, 2001, at 1:00 PM in Room 209 of the Gressette Building, Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Ben Rusche made the motion, with a second by Representative Charles Sharpe. Dr. Stucker indicated that there might be changes to the agenda. He then asked each member of the Council to introduce themselves and share some of their objectives for the N.A.C.

Chairman Stucker asked Dr. John Clark, Director of External Affairs and Energy Advisor, and Governor's Office, to address the Council. Dr. John Clark discussed the importance of the SRS Long Range Comprehensive Plan, and the Extended Care Fund Study for the Barnwell Low-Level Radioactive waste disposal facility that will be conducted by the South Carolina Energy Office. Dr. Clark presented nuclear issues and issues regarding the high level of waste to the state of South Carolina before the Council as additional items that should be addressed. He thanked them on behalf of the Governor for their willingness to serve on the Council and indicated that the Governor's Office looks forward to working with them.

The Council members were given an opportunity to respond to Dr. Clark's comments at this time. A discussion ensued about the SRS Plan, the role of the Council *vis a vis* the Federal Government, the necessity of the timely development of the Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository, and the importance of protecting the integrity of waste packages at the Barnwell site during the 100 years of institutional control. Chairman Stucker then announced that Dr. Van Brunt was unable to attend this meeting, but in a previous meeting with him, Dr. Van Brunt indicated to him that one of the issues of concern of the N.A.C. for him is that issue of tank space and the plumes. He indicated that he wants to make sure that the D.O.E. and the State are working on this.

Chairman Stucker then that the Council form workgroups. These workgroups would meet during the interim to put together steps for the implementation of the Council's goals.

Patricia Tangney, Staff Assistant to the Council, reported. Ms. Tangney gave an update on the Barnwell disposal facility as well as the Extended Care Fund. She said that the Budget & Control Board would issue an RFP for a study on the Extended Care Fund. The Board expects to have a draft from the contractor in September, at which time Council would provide comments and suggestions to the selected contractor. All comments will be incorporated into the final draft, which should be completed by November. She then informed the Council that the Public Service Commission held hearings in April to determine the allowable costs for the Barnwell facility and that the parties involved in the proceeding are waiting for the PSC to make their final cost determinations. Mr. Rusche made a comment that someone needs to look at the regulations and make sure they are being carried out. The Council agreed that this would be put on the agenda for a future meeting, and directed staff to make copies of the Atlantic Compact legislation available to Council members. The Council agreed that even after 100 years, we need to make sure that the disposal site is safe for the environment of the State. Dr. Navrartil asked where South Carolina would dispose of commercial low-level waste after the Barnwell site is closed, and staff explained all SC waste would be disposed of at Barnwell. Dr. Stucker stated that a copy of the Atlantic Compact legislation would be presented at the next meeting. Max Batavia, P.E., Executive Director of the Atlantic Compact Commission was then recognized by the Chair. He stated to the Council that on the web site, which is: www.atlanticcompact.org, updated information as well as information regarding the history of the Compact can be found. He stated that he is looking forward to the relationship with the Nuclear Advisory Council and the Atlantic Compact Commission and will be available to do what he can for the Council.

Mr. Byrne then opened discussion regarding insurance on the Barnwell site. Mr. Rusche wanted to know to what extent is there Price Anderson coverage. There was a brief discussion on this matter.

Mr. Henry Porter of the SC DHEC presented information on spent fuel storage in South Carolina and the development of the Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository.

Chairman Stucker acknowledged the presence of Senator Greg Ryberg and Senator Ryberg was given an opportunity to introduce himself and inform the Council of some of the issues he would like to see the Council address. Senator Ryberg commended Aiken County and the work of the SRS. Looking long range, he is interested in the generation of electricity by nuclear power in the State of South Carolina. The Senator is also supportive of Yucca Mountain.

Chairman Stucker asked Mr. Porter for his assistance in providing the Council information on the status of the power plants in the state, i.e., when they came on line, their licensing status. Chairman Stucker requested the assistance of Duke and CPL to provide this information.

Representative Sharpe commented on Mr. Porter's presentation and expressed his feelings that the State of South Carolina should encourage the Federal government to

negotiate with Nevada for operations at Yucca Mountain. Chairman Stucker asked about the status of the nuclear industry on the national level. He referenced the lawsuit that began in the mid 90's with the utilities and the federal government. His concern is whether the State of South Carolina should take a part in this litigation. There was discussion regarding dry fuel storage and its effect in regards to taxpayers. Representative Sharpe felt that our energy would be well spent in efforts to re-direct some of the money that is being paid into the DOE fund. There was additional discussion on Yucca Mountain and Mr. Rusche said that the state of South Carolina should take a more activist role with consideration to this matter.

Representative Sharpe and Dr. Navratil suggested that the Council visit various facilities so that they can get a better understanding of wet and dry storage. There was additional discussion regarding South Carolina and its role on the State and Federal level regarding nuclear waste.

Chairman Stucker suggested that the Council have quarterly meetings. He further suggested that the meetings be held on the 3rd Thursday of the first month of each fiscal quarter.

Chairman Stucker then suggested that work groups be formed by the Council so that in the interim the members will be able to meet and research various issues. The work groups would report their findings at the full Council meetings. The groups were set up as follows: Mr. Rusche, Dr. Hudson and Mr. Byrne will study the national waste disposal efforts and explore the options for the state of South Carolina to step forward and make recommendations. This group would also focus on current status and long-term disposition of spent fuel high level waste from the commercial side and the Savannah River side. Dr. Navratil, Dr. Van Brunt, Ms. Billing and Representative Sharpe will study the status of the SRS Long Range Comprehensive Plan.

The next meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 19th. The Council would like to meet at the SRS for a meeting and a site tour. Looking ahead at the meeting schedule, it was suggested that the October meeting possibly be held at one of the nuclear power plants.

Chairman Stucker then asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the council. They were as follows: Mr. Fred Humes – Director of the Economic Development Partnership representing economic issues for Aiken County. He confirmed the comments made by Senator Ryberg regarding the resources available at the SRS. Mr. Humes also said that the site should also be considered a source of research, development and technology for the state. Mr. Humes offered his assistance to the Council as they study the SRS Long Range Plan.

Mr. David Wilson, of the SC DHEC, as well as Mr. Keith Collingsworth, who is the federal liaison working with SRS introduced themselves and offered their assistance to the Council from a regulatory standpoint. Representative Sharpe took a moment to commend Mr. Wilson and the DHEC for their representation at the SRS. Chairman

Stucker suggested that Dr. Navratil include Mr. Wilson and Mr. Collingsworth on his work group.

Mr. Chuck Borup, who is the DOE, SRS Site Coordinator for Comprehensive Planning and Strategic Planning, introduced himself to the Council. Chairman Stucker requested that Mr. Borup also be invited to join in the SRS work group.

Ms. Karen Patterson, Chairperson for the SRS Citizens Advisory Planning Board introduced herself to the Council. She stated that she is glad that the Nuclear Advisory Council has come together and looks forward to working with them. Chairman Stucker also said that Ms. Patterson should also be contacted as a resource for the SRS work group.

Dr. Hudson wanted to know if the Council would like the University to assist them in setting up a link for communications. She, along with Patricia Tangney, will work together in this area.

There being no further business, Chairman Stucker asked for a motion to adjourn. Representative Sharpe made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Hudson seconded the motion. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.